

was only six years older. The lad made his little speech promising fidelity and obedience. " Ce que vous lui jurates en si beaux termes," write the well-trained secretaries, " avec tant de grace et d'assurance, et un ton de voix si agreable qu'il congut d&s lors de bonnes esp6rances de vous ; et vous ayant releve*, car vous 6tie2; 6 genoux, il vous embrassa deux fois et vous dit qu'il admirait votre gentillesse." The pledge was kept in peace and war. Sully became not only the comrade in arms, the Minister of Finance, the Master of the Artillery, but the friend and counsellor of " the greatest monarch of all time,*" consulted on everything, trusted in everything, never hesitating to differ in case of need. " When you cease to contradict me," remarked Henri IV, " I shall believe you have ceased to love me." When the King became a Catholic on the utilitarian ground that Paris was worth a mass, Sully remained faithful to his Protestant upbringing. The friend-ship remained unaffected, and indeed Sully, who was naturally consulted, advised the step. The manly virtues of his master shine the more brightly in contrast to his predecessor Henri HI, who appears as a contemptible weakling, with his little dogs in a basket suspended from his neck. The change from the Valois to the Bourbons was a blessing for France, at any rate for the time.

Sully's memoirs, like other examples of its class, must be read with a critical eye, for even the most august personages are up to all manner of tricks. It was natural enough that he should exaggerate his military exploits during the hectic years when his master was fighting for the throne ; that he should exalt his ministerial *rdle*; that he should leave his collaborators in shadow, even when he does not single them out for attack; * that he should enlarge the figures in his dealings with finance,

But it was going rather far to invent a mission to Queen Elizabeth in 1601, and to attribute to his master the *Grand De stein*, one of the earliest projects for the permanent organization of Europe after the destruction of the hegemony of the House of Austria. The motive was clear enough, for the more illustrious its presumed author, the more attention was it likely to arouse; but it cost scholars time and labour to establish its paternity. We are still waiting for a critical edition of this sprawling work.

Where Sully's secretaries laid down the pen those of Richelieu took it up, but there is a world of difference between the memoirs of the two ministers. The former had decades